100 Years Ago: Los Solidarios' Direct Action

Retained Firefighters on Strike

Meanwhile in Ballymena: Fuckers Elected

BLACK STAR

Survitec Pays Up!

Survitec is a company based in Dunmurry which makes marine survival equipment and also makes massive profits from its worldwide sales. Those sales broke the £100 million mark in recent times, but it still refused the workforce of 160 people a decent pay rise, offering the usual below inflation 6 percent. This was of course rejected by the workers unanimously in an 80 percent turnout and an all-out strike began on Thursday, 1 June.

Organise! stands in solidarity with the Survitec workers who on the 14th of June won a 10% pay increase.

'It's not just about pay, it's about respect within the workforce' Phil Warnock, Unite rep at Survitec

Dublin Anarchist Bookfair and Red & Black Clydeside

This spring has brought about two important meeting points for anarchism. Bookfairs and the working class self-education that should go hand in hand with them have an important tradition among anarchist. Their relevance lies not only in making critical ideas accessible for anarchists and those interested, but also in the opportunity for encounter and discussion.

On the 20th of May, the Dublin Anarchist Bookfair was back in the Teachers Club in Parnell Square. Organised by the Irish Anarchist Network and dearg is dubh, the bookfair came back when it was most needed. The event included stalls from a significant range of radical groups from Ireland and beyond, as well as social and political campaigns and old favourites like AK Distribution. Talks included *Organising from Below*, *Organising against Fortress Europe*, *Gender & Anarchism*, *Anti Imperialism*, a *Building for Anarchism* panel with Ruth Kinna and Nick Heath, *My Anarchist Inspiration*, *Disability Panel*, *Climate Action* with: Save Our Sperrins – Save Leitrim – Slí Eile/Climate Camp Ireland, *Not Here Not Anywhere* and a Prison writing workshop. Most of the time the room was packed with people from different generations, and the atmosphere was one of enthusiasm and camaraderie.

The other event, organised by the Glasgow branch of the ACG, the Anarchist Communist Group, the Red and Black Clydeside Bookfair was held on Saturday, 27 May in the Centre for Contemporary Arts on Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow. The venue ironically was the former Saramago cafe space which had been the site of a long-running dispute between the cafe owners and the workers who organized themselves to fight for better pay and conditions and were sacked on the spot after a work stoppage. The cafe closed in April after the CCA ended its link with the business, and the story of the campaign told by the workers featured in one of the workshops about organising in the hospitality sector.

Organise! friends of the IWA-AIT, attended both bookfairs and the Just Books stall sold copies of both our recent publications, Maximoff's Constructive Anarchism and Nick Heath's, The Idea. Like Dublin, the Glasgow event was a good chance to meet friends and comrades, old and new, and workshops provided some interesting and valuable talks. Besides the one on hospitality workers, there were workshops on radical histories, Ukraine, creating a people's guide to Glasgow, and anarchist organisation.

One of the most interesting stalls was on the Strickland Press with items donated by former People's Palace museum curator, Michael Donnelly. The Strickland Press was established as an anarchist publishing house in Glasgow in 1939 and survived in one guise or another until 1968, providing continuity with older anarchist groups such as the Anti-Parliamentary Communist Federation as well as maintaining a vibrant propagandist presence in the city for decades.

We are already looking forward to next year.

VENGEANCE OF THE ANARCHIST WORKERS - JUNE 1923

He was the mastermind of ruthless and murderous attacks on anarchist militants and a close ally of the far right, but Cardinal Juan Soldevila y Romero finally met his match on 4 June 1923 on a visit to a monastery in Zaragoza. He was assassinated by the Los Solidarios ('tres hojas de trébol negro contra el viento del Poder' – 'three leaves of black clover against the wind of Power'), a group of anarchist militants formed in 1922 of whom, Buenaventura Durruti, Juan Garcia Oliver and Francisco Ascaso were the best known members. The Cardinal of Zaragoza controlled a group of mercenary pistoleros who had been involved in numerous attacks against the workers, including the murder of CNT militant Salvador Seguí.

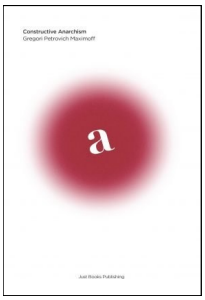
'My convictions are deep. They were born in the bosom of this unjust society and represent love and liberty. they're as solid as steel'.

Buenaventura Durutti, cited in Abel Paz, Durutti in the Spanish Revolution (Edinburgh: AK Press, 2007), p.106.

Just Books Publishing

Just Books Publishing, set up by the Just Books Collective, has so far published its first two titles.

The first is a reprint of Gregori Maximoff's *Constructive Anarchism*, to mark the 100th year of existence of the International Workers Association (IWA) the Anarcho-Syndicalist international founded in Berlin in 1922.



isbn 9781739723705

£11.99

The second title, now with a new cover, is Nick Heath's *The Idea. Anarchist Communism: Past, Present and Future* - a welcome and new comprehensive work on anarchist communism, this book seeks to rehabilitate the current of anarchist-communism. To make it better known and understood.

...a good substantial book, and much needed. Lucidly written, it provides a rich brew of engaging discussions of the 'Idea' (anarchist communism as a political philosophy), interesting vignettes of many individual anarchists, and a great historical account of the many anarchist communist organisations over the past 150 years... (Brian Morris on *The Idea)*

isbn 9781739723712

£15.00

Available from:

https://organiseanarchistsireland.com/shop/

Anti-War Resistance in Russia

Looking towards the Russian anti-war movement there is a lot than can be learned from the techniques employed by our anarchist comrades opposing the invasion of Ukraine. Since Putin launched his war to conquer territory of the Ukrainian state, anarchists within that territory and within Russia have used all available means to oppose the war of conquest. Within Russian territory specifically we see a variety of tactics, both legal and illegal being deployed to inhibit the Russian military's ability to wage war. Days after the beginning of the invasion thousands of Russians, some of them anarchists, began protesting the regime's actions and were met with arrests and police violence. As we know now, this did not bring an end to the war, so other anti-war activists took a different approach.

Clandestine groups formed, varying politically from anarcho-communists to neo-fascists, and began to oppose the war in a more direct way. One such anarcho-communist group is the aptly named Combat Organization of Anarcho-Communists. Also known by its Russian acronym, BOAK, this organization preceded the war in Ukraine by some years and carried out attacks on Russian infrastructure in solidarity with other left-wing movements. With the war ongoing, BOAK has begun to specialize in targeting railways to impede the ability of the military to mobilize their troops and keep them supplied.

As evidence for their belief in a grassroots movement and certain fuckin' DIY attitude, BOAK also publishes proof and instructions on their activities on their Telegram channel. These techniques include the building of IEDs to attack bridges and other infrastructure as well as acts of sabotage that can be accomplished with hardware tools. During 2022 BOAK carried out 40 attacks on rail lines used by the Russian army and are on pace to surpass that this year. But it doesn't stop there; BOAK has also burned down cell phone towers and torched army enlistment offices. In response, the Putin regime is making a new law stating that acts of sabotage will result in a life sentence.

You may be asking, "So what?" Even if blowing up train tracks and throwing Molotov's at army offices is objectively based and cool, are they even effective actions? The partisans and BOAK specifically serve as an example of anti-state actors fighting against Russian state imperialism. In their own words...

"Them, the state, they are small. And there's a lot of us."

One group may not be effective in confronting state power but when many such groups coordinate and help to supply and train one another, many small attacks can have a sizeable impact. While the media in Western Europe and North America back the Ukrainian state to the hilt and deflect criticism that Ukraine is suppling neo-Nazis with weapons to fight Russia (the enemy of your enemy can still be your enemy) we can take inspiration from and show solidarity with the anarchist partisans fighting against Putin's brand of Russian fascism.

Retained Firefighters Gear Up for Action

For years they've risked their lives at a moment's notice and dropped their other jobs and responsibilities to answer emergency calls often in remote rural areas of the Republic of Ireland for little pay and less recognition. The retained firefighters are the back-up in many communities across the country relied upon to attend fires and other emergencies where and when needed. For decades there has been no regulation of or increase in their paltry pay. The Irish government recently launched a report on the pay and conditions of retained firefighters whose recommendations were predictably shit. As a result, the firefighters agreed to back strike action across the twenty-six county state beginning this month and have the support of the Fire Brigades Union (FBU) here in the North, as well as across the wider labour and working class movement. Retained firefighters here in the North are still awaiting pensions justice after many years of campaigning.

Meanwhile... In Ballymena

Apparently the big news here was the election of a Shinner onto the council and another bigot from the DUP who tweeted support for the Greysteel massacre of 1993 (the Provos are usually better at deleting these things before an election). Few people mentioned that this council had the second lowest turnout in the North. I think we were beaten to the title by them fuckers in North Down though the fact that turnout is consistently lowest in working class Prod areas appears to bother no-one.

Increasingly areas with multiple deprivation markers, high unemployment and low educational attainment, places like Ballykeel here, Westwinds in Ards or Ballysally in Coleraine. Neither strain of nationalism has anything to offer such communities any more than the other political 'choices' out there offering so-called alternatives. Here's to the eventual ebb of the Irish and British nationalist tide.

Get Involved: Help Build A Working Class Alternative.

ORGANISE!

FRIENDS OF THE INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' ASSOCIATION · AMIGOS DE LA ASOCIACIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE LAS Y LOS TRABAJADORES

WWW.ORGANISEANARCHISTSIRELAND.COM

Organise! is an anarcho-syndicalist group in Ireland which as affiliated to the International Worker's Association as 'friends of' section. We take inspiration from the self directed struggles of working-class people, and particularly the history and tradition of struggle epitomised by the IWA - the anarcho-syndicalist international. Our history goes back to the original formation of Organise! by the Ballymena and Antrim Anarchist Groups in 1985.

We are a small, but growing, group of ordinary working class people who are fed up with being fucked about by the profit system, fed up with seeing our communities and workplaces torn apart by racism, patriarchy, nationalism and sectarianism, and sick of a greedy few getting rich off everyone else's backs.

We are actively working to promote solidarity in opposition to capitalism, the state, patriarchy and all other forms of oppression and hierarchy. The way we organise reflects the free society we want to create: one based on voluntary association, democratic participation and self-management.

Our members are workers, claimants, students, migrants, unemployed and other working-class people committed to building a libertarian communist union movement actively opposed to all forms of oppression and exploitation.

We want to improve everyday conditions for ourselves and other working class people, but we also struggle for the revolutionary transformation that can create a free and equal society, one based on mutual aid and co-operation. Sound crazy? Maybe it does, but in an era in which it is easier to imagine the end of the world than the end of capitalism the continuation of the present system is even crazier…

The current system isn't working – ill-health, stress and overwork affect more and more people while others are flung on the dole; for increasing amounts of workers it is precarity, zero hours contracts and the stress of being unable to plan or budget our lives; we live in a world of plentiful resources yet millions starve; some people make vast fortunes just because they own companies, land, property or natural resources, but those of us who create the wealth, work the land and build the properties are left struggling to survive; politicians tell us there's no money – not for wages, benefits or local amenities, but there's always plenty for war; both locally and globally the gap between the richest and the poorest sections of society has never been so great; instead of a war on poverty they've got a war on 'benefit fraud', while the same system that creates war, poverty and environmental destruction stigmatises, imprisons and deports the resultant refugees.

We don't think these things are inevitable or coincidental, we think they are related to capitalism – an economic system defined by wage slavery and the accumulation of profit out of other people's work. So we support all workers against their bosses in demanding higher wages and better conditions. We try to intervene practically to support workers engaged in disputes and are also active in our own workplaces and communities. Not only against exploitation but against the multiple oppressions faced by members of the working class in all our diversity.

But it's not just a question of trying to struggle by in a world of exploitation and oppression; we look to a future where workers control production and society in their own interests. And unlike some people who claim to oppose capitalism, we don't want to be a new set of leaders and we refuse to be led by anyone else. We advocate direct democracy in the workplace and through the commune in our communities – working in federation to ensure that the needs of all are met and that no-one is ever again in a position to oppress or exploit another human being.

If you are interested in these ideas, we'd encourage you to explore our website and consider getting involved.

We currently have members in Belfast, Cork, Derry, Lisburn, Newtownabbey and Portadown and are building the organisation on the basis of active involvement and participation. We aren't interested in meaningless 'paper' membership so you can't join by filling in an online form and bunging us a few quid.

To talk to us about joining get the ball rolling, check out our website at https://organiseanarchistsireland.com and send an email to:

organiseasi@gmail.com